



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Emergency Management

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DISASTER FIELD OFFICE
7401 Timberlake Road
LYNCHBURG, VA 24502
FEMA-1458-DR-VA
Commonwealth Situation Report #8
Tuesday, April 8, 2003

1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:

12:00 AM Tuesday, April 8, 2003, through 12:00 AM, *Wednesday, April 9, 2003. (New Information is in italics)*

2. SITUATION:

A major winter storm struck Virginia beginning February 15 causing major flooding in Southwest Virginia and significant ice and snowfall in the Shenandoah Valley and areas of Northern Virginia. The weather pattern continued to bring warmer temperatures ,melting snow/ice and more heavy rainfall, which combined to cause more local flooding.

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a State of Emergency on February 16, 2003, to speed state agency assistance and resources to localities in need. The counties of Accomack, Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Essex, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester declared emergencies.

The Governor requested the federal Public Assistance program (PA) on February 28th for snow and/or flooding for the following localities: the counties of Albemarle, Arlington, Bland, Buchanan, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Dickenson, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Grayson, Greene, Highland, Lee, Louisa, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Prince William, Rappahannock, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Stafford, Spotsylvania, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Alexandria, Charlottesville, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester.

The Governor requested the federal Individual Assistance program (IA) on March 4 for these winter storm events in the counties of Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Madison, Montgomery, Prince William, Roanoke including the Town of Vinton, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Roanoke, Salem and Winchester.

A Major Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA-1458-DR-VA) was declared on March 27, 2003. The counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Montgomery, Russell, Tazewell and Wise and the cities of Norton, Roanoke and Salem were designated for Individual Assistance (IA). Public Assistance (PA) is available for the counties of Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Orange and Rappahannock and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church and Winchester. A Disaster Field Office was opened in Lynchburg on March 31, 2003. The hours of operation are 7:00am – 6:00pm, daily, and closed Sundays.. The DFO telephone number is 434-832-8440 and the fax number is 434-832-8544.

The Virginia Farm Service Agency (FSA) has made emergency (EM) physical loss loans available to 10 Virginia counties due to blizzard damages that occurred from Feb 15-Feb 18, 2003. Those counties are Amelia, Augusta, Culpeper, Fauquier, Highland, Page, Prince William, Rappahannock, Rockingham and Shenandoah. In addition to the above counties, 25 other Virginia counties/cities were named as contiguous counties/cities where eligible family farmers may qualify for FSA EM physical loss loan assistance. Those Virginia counties/cities are Albemarle, Bath, Chesterfield, Clarke, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fairfax, Frederick, Greene, Harrisonburg City, Loudoun, Madison, Manassas City, Manassas Park City, Nelson, Nottoway, Orange, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Rockbridge, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Staunton City, Warren, and Waynesboro City. These loans to Virginia counties/cities may be made available to applicants with a qualifying physical loss in the named counties/cities effective 3/18/03 through 11/18/03.

3. WEATHER

Today. Rain developing late this morning. Cold with the highs in the lower 40s. East winds 10 to 15 mph. Tonight. Rain. heavy at times. Lows in the lower 40s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain near 100 percent. Flood watch until 4pm for the following counties: Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Bettor, Buckingham, Buena Vista, Campbell, Carroll, Charlotte, Danville, Floyd, Franklin, Galaxy, Grayson, Halifax, Henry, Lexington, Lynchburg, Martinsville, Montgomery, Patrick, Spotsylvania, Pulaski, Radford, Roanoke, Rock bridge, Salem, Smyth. Flood warning for Dan River. Wednesday. Rain heavy at times early. Tapering off to showers late. Cold with highs in the lower 40s. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain near 100 percent.

4. CURRENT PRIORITIES:

- A. Implement strategies to distribute information to affected areas.
- B. Coordinate with FEMA for additional Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA).
- C. Coordinate with FEMA for DRC locations.
- D. Obtain signatures for the FEMA and Commonwealth Agreement.
- E. Conduct classes for selected DFO staff.
- F. Establish training component and identify Training Officer for DFO.
- G. Establish a drug and alcohol free environment.
- H. Implement Public assistance strategies.
- I. Establish the Task Force for DFO emergencies.
- J. Develop and implement DFO strategic plan.
- K. Develop data for Decision Brief for state disaster funding.

5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:**A. Individual Assistance (IA):**Tele-registrations:

| Tele-Registrations | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|----|
| Designated Jurisdictions | | Undesignated Jurisdictions | |
| Buchanan Co. | 165 | Amherst Co. | 1 |
| Dickenson Co. | 94 | Arlington Co. | 1 |
| Montgomery Co. | 25 | Botetourt Co. | 2 |
| Russell Co. | 7 | Halifax Co. | 1 |
| Tazewell Co. | 17 | Henry Co. | 1 |
| Wise Co. | 76 | Lee Co. | 1 |
| Norton City | 11 | Prince William Co. | 1 |
| Roanoke City | 60 | Pulaski Co. | 1 |
| Salem City | 72 | Roanoke Co. | 16 |
| | 527 | | 25 |

Disaster Related Deaths Reported:

| Jurisdictions | | Initial Reports | | Validated Reports | |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| | | No. of Fatalities | Source | No. of Fatalities | Source |
| 1 | Augusta Co. | 1 | News | Pending | |
| 2 | Fauquier Co. | 1 | EM Coordinator | Pending | |
| 3 | Frederick Co. | 1 | Times Dispatch | Pending | |
| 4 | Gloucester Co. | 1 | Daily Press | Pending | |
| 5 | Hanover Co. | 1 | VDEM PA | Pending | |
| 6 | Loudoun Co. | 1 | Times Dispatch | 3 | EM Coord |
| 7 | Montgomery Co. | 1 | Times Dispatch | Pending | |
| 8 | New Kent Co. | 1 | Times Dispatch | Pending | |
| 9 | Pulaski Co. | 1 | VDEM PA | Pending | |
| 10 | Roanoke Co. | 1 | Local SitRep | Pending | |
| 11 | Shenandoah Co. | 1 | Washington Post | 2 | EM Coord |
| 12 | Spotsylvania Co. | 1 | EM Coord | Pending | |
| 13 | Warren Co. | 2 | EM Coord/News | Pending | |

Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC):

| DRCs | Salem City | Buchanan Co | Wise Co | |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Apr 5 | 4 | - | - | |
| Apr 6 | 9 | - | - | |
| Apr 7 | 14 | <i>Opens Apr 8th</i> | <i>Opens Apr 14th</i> | |
| <i>Total</i> | 27 | | | |

Reviewing applicant registration information in the declared jurisdictions in order to determine the need for fixed or mobile Disaster Recovery Centers to assist applicants with questions or registration issues.

DRC opened *April 5th* at the Regional Office of the Virginia Department of Forestry, 210 Riverland Drive, Salem, Virginia 24153 Phone: (540) 387-5461 Fax: (540) 387-5462. Service hours are 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. seven days a week.

DRC opened today, Apr 8th, at the Buchanan County Courthouse, Main Street, Grundy, Virginia 24614(Phone: (276) 935-6567. Service hours are 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. seven days a week.

Coordination is underway for the opening of a DRC in *Wise County* with local officials and FEMA/State staff. The DRC is scheduled to open on *Monday, April 14, 2003*, pending FEMA functional area inspections. *Location is to be determined.*

Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) Validations:

On Wednesday, April 2, we contacted the Emergency Management Coordinators for non-designated jurisdictions. The new information warranted further contact with the following jurisdictions: the counties of Bland, Lee, Spotsylvania, Augusta, Acquire, Frederick, Loudon, Roanoke Co. (Town of Vinton), Shenandoah, Warren, Madison, and the cities of Danville and Winchester.

As such, on Thursday, April 3, we contacted each jurisdiction to notify them of the Commonwealth's plans to verify their reported damages. Each EMC was provided a description of actions to take in preparation for a visit by a State Representative. All State Representatives have been contacted and are currently coordinating their site visits.

Commonwealth Representatives have submitted ***all requested*** IDA validation reports non-designated jurisdictions. ***These reports have been reviewed and PDAs are being scheduled as appropriate.***

Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA):

The State Fire Marshall's Office has agreed to assist with the PDAs for Individual Assistance. Training was conducted April 6, 2003.

Localities, which as a result of the validated IDA have sufficient damages in Individual Assistance categories, will be scheduled for PDA's. Reported fatalities and any subsequent unmet needs are currently under investigation as well.

PDA teams are in the field now and we expect all PDA's to be completed by COB Friday, April 11, 2003.

Local Disaster Recovery Task Forces:

This week, the Coordinator of the State Disaster Recovery Task Force, Department of Housing and Community Development will be meeting with established Lords within the declared areas as well as meeting with localities interested in establishing a LDRTF.

| Date | Localities | Purpose |
|----------------|--|--|
| Monday, 4/7 | Roanoke City, Roanoke Co., Salem City and Town of Vinton | Visit with existing Local & Regional Darts |
| Tuesday, 4/8 | Russell Co. | Visit with existing LDRTF |
| Wednesday, 4/9 | Washington Co. | Kick off meeting to establish new LDRTF |
| Thursday, 4/10 | Wise Co. | Visit to begin establishment of new LDRTF |
| Friday, 4/11 | Buchanan Co. and Tazewell Co. | Visit with existing LDRTFs |

B. Public Assistance (PA):

- Requesting declaration add-on for snow emergency work only the following jurisdictions
Prince William County
Shenandoah County
Warren County
City of Manassas
City of Manassas Park
- Preparing cost documentation for PDA's in areas affected by Feb. flooding.
- *Received three Requests for Public Assistance from Towns in Loudoun County including Purcellville, Middleburg and Roundhill*
- Twenty-four (24) requests for public assistance have been received.
- *Joint FEMA/Commonwealth kick-off meetings conducted on April 7, 2003 for Fauquier County, City of Winchester, Winchester Regional Airport Authority, Town of Warrenton, Town of Orange, and Town of Gordonsville were successful and the locals are completing required data collection information for processing of project worksheets.*
- *PDA's will be scheduled for flooded areas- April 9-11, 2003. Three reservists will assist the Commonwealth with four FEMA/ Commonwealth teams.*

C. Community Relations (CR):

- FEMA / State teams have been deployed to the declared localities and briefed on Community Relations activity for the field.
- Field Officers received training in IHP (Individual and Household Program).
- Field Officers are contacting the Local Emergency Manager in the declared jurisdictions.
- Field Officers are distributing the FEMA telephone registration 1-800-621-FEMA.
- Field Officers are distributing the FEMA DRC location flyer *in the Roanoke Valley and the Buchanan County/Grundy area.*
- Field Officers are continuing to assess the unmet needs/ special needs in their assigned jurisdictions.
- *Field officers will assist in validating reported damages in effected , non-declared jurisdictions*
- *Community relations will validate reported fatalities during the declared disaster event.*
- *Field officers reported a potential landslide at a mobile home park in Montgomery County. Information sent to the proper DFO section.*

D. Hazard Mitigation (HM):

- Staffing finalized for Hazard Mitigation Section.
- Mitigation strategy formatted to Action Plan and calendar.

- Finalized the strategy based on the April 17 “success stories” meeting with local governments.
- Agenda for April 17th meeting with City of Roanoke, Roanoke County, and Cities of Salem and Vinton is completed.
- Finalized the Action Plan and transfer plan elements to the April/May strategic calendar.
- Finalized briefing points for the April 7, 2003 meeting with Congressman Boucher’s staff regarding the Hurley HMGP Project.
- *Editing the Public Assistance Environmental Consideration Document for DR 1458VA*
- *Will develop an outline for environmental/historic resources coordinating agency scoping meeting.*
- Will hold a floodplain management workshop for local officials, consultants, and others on May 6, 2003, at the Eastern Mennonite Retirement Center in Harrisonburg, VA. The Central Shenandoah Project Impact, the VA Association of Floodplain Managers, and the Department of Conservation & Recreation will sponsor the workshop. The point of contact for registration information is Jackie Miller at 804-786-0237.

E. Public Affairs Office (PAO):

- Disseminated public service announcement (PSA) on the teleregistration number to broadcast stations in the western part of the state.
- Disseminated news release on the Disaster Recovery Center opening in Grundy to western media.
- Drafting Q & A news release about disaster assistance available to individuals.
- Continuing interviews with media in the western part of the state.
- Field PIOs continue to contact media in the declared areas; distributed news releases and provided information on the recovery effort, emphasizing the amount of housing assistance provided to date, and the DRC in Salem and Grundy.
- The key messages are: Call to register for assistance - don’t determine your own eligibility; visit the DRC, disaster assistance will not affect other government programs.

F. Legislative Liaison:

Significant Activities:

- *Refer questions and concerns by Congressman Boucher’s aide to appropriate state contacts.*

Anticipated Activities in the next 24 hours:

Provide state senators and delegates with updated status reports.

G. Information and Planning:

- Updating strategic priorities.

Michael M. Cline, SCO